# SEISDON UNION
# RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

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# REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## FOR THE YEAR 1894.

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WOLVERHAMPTON:
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Penn Fields, Wolverhampton,

*28th January, 1895.*

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my 22nd Annual Report, and must refer you for particulars to the Inspector's Statement for the year.

## DEATHS.

The DEATH RATE is 13·5 per 1,000 of the population, slightly higher than in 1893, when it stood at 13·0, but it is still lower than the average for the last ten years, which is ~~28·3~~. We must however take into consideration, that in 1884 the population stood at 12,838, whereas in 1894 it only reaches 12,480.

The number of uncertified Deaths is 6.

Table of Death Rate for the last Decade.

| 1885 | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16·2 | 15·3 | 16·8 | 15·3 | 13·4 | 15·3 | 20·9 | 19·4 | 13·0 | 13·5 |

Deaths in Registration Districts.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wombourn ... ... | 36 | 36 | 72 |
| Tettenhall ... ... | 30 | 16 | 46 |
| Kinver ... ... | 23 | 19 | 42 |
| Total ... | 89 | 71 | 160 |

There has been an increase of 9 in the number of deaths. In the Wombourn District 5, in Tettenhall 3, and in Kinver 1. Of these, 29 occurred under 1 year, 50 under

65, and 58 above 65. There has been an increased number of deaths between the ages of 25 and 65, and less than usual above 65.

I give here a comparative Table of ages at which death occurred during the last 10 years :—

| Years. | At all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 60 | 60 and upwards |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1885 | 211 | 40 | 16 | 11 | 4 | 50 | 90 |
| 1886 | 198 | 44 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 43 | 75 |
| 1887 | 221 | 50 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 41 | 94 |
| 1888 | 201 | 42 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 36 | 99 |
| 1889 | 178 | 30 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 36 | 79 |
| 1890 | 202 | 42 | 18 | 8 | 8 | 37 | 89 |
| 1891 | 254 | 38 | 21 | 8 | 11 | 48 | 128 |
| 1892 | 236 | 48 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 52 | 117 |
| 1893 | 160 | 29 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 36 | 77 |
| 1894 | 169 | 29 | 15 | 13 | 4 | *50 | †58 |

* 25 and under 65. † 65 and upwards.

Causes of Death for the last 10 years :—

| Causes. | 1885 | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Small Pox ... ... ... | . | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlatina ... ... .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | .. | ... | 6 | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | .. | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Membranous Croup .. | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | .. | 1 | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| Fevers: Typhus ... ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | . | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Fevers: Enteric ... .. | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Fevers: Continued ... ... | .. | | . | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| Fevers: Relapsing ... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fevers: Puerperal ... ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Cholera ... ... .. | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | . | ... | ... | .. |
| Erysipelas .. . ... | 3 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | .. | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Measles ... ... ... | .. | 4 | 6 | ... | 1 | 2 | 9 | ... | . | 1 |
| Whooping Cough . ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | 1 | 11 | 4 | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhœa and Dysentery.. | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 5 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | . | ... |
| Ague ... ... .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | . | ... | ... |
| Phthisis .. ... ... | 13 | 16 | 18 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 18 |
| Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy ... | 57 | 31 | 42 | 46 | 36 | 53 | 47 | 73 | 32 | 24 |
| Heart Disease ... ... | 20 | 14 | 18 | 11 | 22 | 17 | 28 | 17 | 12 | 24 |
| Injuries ... ... .. | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| All other Diseases ... ... | 97 | 113 | 116 | 123 | 94 | 95 | 135 | 117 | 86 | 84 |
| Totals ... ... | 211 | 198 | 221 | 201 | 178 | 202 | 254 | 236 | 160 | 169 |

## BIRTHS.

The number of registered births was 301, *i.e.*, 29 fewer than in 1893 and the lowest birth rate for the last 10 years. Wombourn shews a decline of 22, Tettenhall of 13, and Kinver an increase of 6.

| | Wombourn. | Tettenhall. | Kinver. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Males ... | 82 | 31 | 40 |
| Females ... | 73 | 33 | 42 |
| | 155 | 64 | 82 |
| | | | Total 301 |

The excess of Births over Deaths is 132, as compared with 170 for 1893.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

SMALL POX. I have to report two cases of this formidable disease, which has been very prevalent in the vicinity of this district. The first case occurred in a young woman at a public house in the centre of the village of Kinver. The notification came late on one Saturday evening, and we wired at once to the Sergeant of Police, to caution the landlord against allowing persons into his house. Early next morning we were in the village, and succeeded, with the greatest difficulty, in obtaining permission to remove the case to a distance, to be nursed by the occupant of a dwelling which was fairly isolated, giving the necessary directions which were properly carried out. In a few days the mother took the disease, and was nursed in the same dwelling. With the exception of a few strong protestations against our proceedings, all went well, no other case occurred, and, after recovery, the bed, bedding, and clothes were burnt, and compensation made for the same. I should mention that only a few weeks before, at my suggestion, the Sanitary Authority had given to the Inspector and myself, with the Guardians of the Parish, power to act as any urgent case might require.

SCARLET FEVER. In consequence of an extensive epidemic of this disease in the villages of Bradmore, Pattingham, and Codsall, the number of cases of Zymotic disease have greatly increased. We had no means available for isolation up to the middle of November, to cope with such an extensive outbreak except two beds at the Kinver Cottage Hospital, of which we made the best use we could. Unfortunately it had reached its height before the "Bratch temporary Isolation Hospital" was ready for patients. Had this Hospital been available 2 months earlier, I have no hesitation in saying that the number of cases would have been very considerably reduced. In many cottages of the poorer classes, isolation was very difficult, and in some instances, impossible, and the disinfection of the houses presented many difficulties, especially during the winter months. There have been 12 cases already admitted, they were all children. Three deaths occurred from this disease. The Schools in each of the above-named villages were for a time closed.

TYPHOID FEVER. Only one case occurred, in a man who, while travelling, was taken ill and came home with the disease. There was nothing insanitary about the house, which was supplied with water from the Wolverhampton Water Works.

DIPHTHERIA. Sixteen cases of this disease were notified, fourteen of which occurred during the December quarter. There were three deaths, but some of the cases were of a very mild character. Eleven of these could be traced to an impure water supply; others were connected with Scarlet Fever. Two of the cases originated thus: a servant girl went home to visit her friends where the disease existed, and on her return to her masters's house was taken ill; she was then sent home, where she died, out of our district. Soon after, her mistress's child became affected and died, and, subsequently, her mistress, who recovered.

MEASLES. There has been one death from this disease, comparatively few cases, scarcely amounting to an epidemic.

ERYSIPELAS. Twelve cases of this disease were notified, and two deaths registered.

INFLUENZA. Very few cases, and those not of a severe character, have come to my knowledge in comparison with former years.

POPULATION has increased from 12,289 in 1893, to 12,480 in 1894, viz.:- Wombourn district, 90, Tettenhall 50, and Kinver 51,=191, as against 147 for 1893.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT. There have been 50 more Infectious cases notified this year, than in the three previous years added together, in consequence of the Epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Union.

I here append the number and classification of these diseases, notified to me under this Act for the last four years.

CASES NOTIFIED.

| | Scarlet Fever. | Erysipelas. | Diphtheria. | Typhoid. | Puerperal Peritonitis. | Typhus | Small Pox. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1891 | 17 | 6 | 6 | 14 | — | — | — | 43 |
| 1892 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 6 | — | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| 1893 | 33 | 9 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 44 |
| 1894 | 140 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 172 |
| | | | | | | | | 294 |

HOSPITALS. The Cottage Hospital, Kinver, has been occupied by 8 patients during the year. These were, for the most part, first cases of Scarlet Fever, and their removal had the desired effect of staying the spread of the disease.

The long-wished-for Isolation Hospital is at last in existence. Its situation at the Bratch, in the Parish of Wombourn, is very central in the Union. It will accommodate 8 adults, or 10 or 12 children. It is well isolated, and the grounds can be made suitable for healthy exercise of the patients, and garden produce. We have, however, no means of isolating the different diseases, and, there being plenty of room for enlargement, I would suggest for your consideration, one or two detached wards at the rear of the present building.

Although only a period of six weeks has elapsed since its establishment, 12 children suffering from Scarlet Fever have been admitted; and even now its capacity is not sufficient to supply the wants required by the present epidemic. The disinfecting chamber, just completed, will be invaluable.

WATER SUPPLY. The Bilston Township Commissioners are sinking a well at the Bratch, and have been pumping to keep their workings dry to that extent that the wells in the surrounding district have been exceedingly short of water, and in many instances quite dry. To what level the water may rise again in the future remains to be proved. The only means of obtaining water, left to the inhabitants, is from a Brook course which flows through the village. This stream is subject to pollution, and, to protect a portion of its course, about 100 yards of 6in. sewer have been laid down in Mill Lane. The Sanitary Authority also, at a cost of £5, laid pipes to convey the brook water to a convenient spot in the village, to enable the inhabitants to obtain a supply from a dipping hole.

SEWERAGE (Broad Lane, Bradmore). The Wolverhampton Corporation have, for some years, been complaining of the sewage running from 7 houses into an open ditch by the road side. This nuisance, I am pleased to say, has now been effectually abated, by 289 yards of

sewer pipes having been laid to convey the sewage upon adjoining land. The want of drainage to 18 houses at the Butts, Upper Penn, has been a long standing nuisance; this, I am also glad to state, is now abated, by means of 367 yards of an efficient sewer being laid to convey the sewage upon land.

The matter of Bye-Laws mentioned in my last report, was, I understand, allowed to stand over until the formation of the new District Council, and I would again call your attention to the importance of adopting these Laws in the district.

RIVERS' POLLUTION ACT. In my last report I also called your attention to the want of a proper system of drainage in some of the villages in the Union. You have now in your hands Dr. Reid's report respecting this matter, and I have no doubt you will give it your earliest consideration.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, CANAL BOATS, AND BAKEHOUSES' ACTS. These duties have been attended to as usual.

I am,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM SPACKMAN, M.D.,
*Medical Officer of Health.*

*To the Rural District Council of Seisdon.*

## SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1894.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Houses inspected ... ... ... | 515 |
| No. of Notices on hand December 31st, 1893 ... | 5 |
| No. of Notices served ... ... ... | 187 |
| Complied with ... ... ... ... | 188 |
| Leaving on the Books 31st December, 1894 ... | 4 |
| Letters written relative to Nuisances ... ... | 123 |
| Bakehouses Inspected ... ... ... | 13 |
| Slaughter-houses Inspected ... ... ... | 13 |
| Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Inspected ... ... | 76 |
| Canal Boats Inspected ... ... ... | 69 |
| Houses Repaired, &c. ... ... ... | 3 |
| Limewashed .. ... ... ... | 80 |
| Through Ventilation provided ... ... ... | — |
| Disinfection ... ... ... ... | 76 |
| Overcrowding abated ... ... ... | 4 |
| Yards Paved ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated ... ... | — |
| Filthy Houses and Washhouses Repaired and Cleansed | 3 |
| Privies Removed and Reconstructed ... ... | 5 |
| ,, Emptied and Cleansed ... ... ... | 95 |
| Ashpits Repaired ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Ashpits built to Privies ... ... ... | 2 |
| Privies Repaired and Limewashed ... ... | 19 |
| Doors and Spouting Provided ... ... | 1 |
| Pan System Adopted... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Cellars Drained ... ... ... ... | — |
| 100 yards 6in. Sewer laid in Mill Lane, Wombourn | — |
| 545 yards 6in. Sewer, 126 yards 9in. Sewer, and 40 yards Repairs in the Parish of Upper Penn | — |
| 2 Ventilators to Sewers in the Parish of Penn ... | — |
| Carried forward ... | 317 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Brought forward ... ... | 317 |
| Drains laid to Houses ... ... ... | 46 |
| ,, Repaired ... ... ... ... | 73 |
| ,, Trapped ... ... ... ... | 40 |
| Cesspits constructed ... ... ... ... | 8 |
| Cesspools Emptied ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Foul Cesspools filled up ... ... ... | 8 |
| Ditches Cleansed ... ... ... ... | 13 |
| Pigsties Removed ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| ,, Drained ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Ceased Keeping Swine ... ... ... | 8 |
| Catchpits built to Piggeries ... ... ... | 2 |
| Foul Pigwash Removed ... ... ... | 45 |
| Manure and other Filth Removed ... ... | 54 |
| Water Supplied—Pumps Repaired ... ... | 11 |
| Wells Sunk ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| Tap Water laid on to Houses ... ... — | 11 |
| Wells Cleansed ... ... ... ... | 18 |
| Cisterns Cleansed ... ... ... ... | — |
| Pumps put to Wells ... ... ... . | 5 |
| Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved, and Channelled ... | 8 |
| Water Analysed—Wholesome ... ... ... | 2 |
| ,, ,, Polluted ... ... ... | 5 |
| Wells Closed .. ... ... ... | 5 |
| Other Nuisances ... ... ... ... | — |
| Persons Summoned before the Magistrates ... | — |
| Total ... ... | 720 |

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Seisdon Union Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

| Registration Districts. | Population at all ages. | | Registered Births | Aged under 5 or over 5. | New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | FEVERS | | | | | | |
| | Census 1891 | Estimated to middle of 1894 | | | Smallpox | Scarlatina | Diphtheria | Membranous Croup | Typhus | Enteric or Typhoid | Continued | Relapsing | Puerperal | Cholera | Erysipelas |
| WOMBOURN ... | 5717 | 5931 | 155 | Under 5 | ... | 18 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. |
| | | | | 5 upwds | ... | 39 | 3 | ... | .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| TETTENHALL ... | 3255 | 3355 | 64 | Under 5 | ... | 15 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 53 | 11 | . | ... | ... | .. | ... | 1 | . | 1 |
| KINVER ... | 3165 | 3194 | 82 | Under 5 | ... | 3 | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | . | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | 2 | 12 | ... | .. | ... | .. | ... | ... | . | .. | 3 |
| Totals ... | 12,137 | 12,480 | 301 | Under 5 | ... | 36 | 2 | ... | ... | .. | . | . | ... | .. | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | 2 | 104 | 14 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 12 |

Eight cases of *Scarlet Fever* were removed to the Kinver Hospital, and Twelve to the Hospital in Wombourn Parish.

Table of DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Seisdon Rural Sanitary District classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

| Registration Districts | Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages. | | | | | | | | Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of age. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | FEVERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | At all ages | Under 1 year | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 65 | 65 and upwds | | Smallpox | Scarlatina | Diphtheria | Membranous Croup | Typhus | Enteric or Typhoid | Continued | Relapsing | Puerperal | Cholera | Erysipelas | Measles | Whooping Cough | Diarrhœa and Dysentery | Rheumatic Fever | Ague | Phthisis | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy | Heart Disease | Injuries | All other Diseases | Total |
| WOMBOURN | 77 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 22 | Under 5 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | .. | ... | | ... | ... | .. | ... | .. | 1 | 1 | . | ... | 1 | 6 | . | 2 | 14 | 27 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | . | | . | .. | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | .. | ... | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 27 | 49 |
| TETTENHALL | 49 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 12 | Under 5 | ... | .. | ... | . | ... | .. | ... | . | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | 3 | ... | ... | 5 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 8 | 2 | 10 | ... | 18 | 41 |
| KINVER ... | 43 | 4 | 3 | 1 | ... | 11 | 24 | Under 5 | .. | ... | ... | ... | .. | .. | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | .. | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | .. | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | . | . | ... | ... | .. | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 5 | 10 | ... | 17 | 35 |
| Totals ... | 169 | 29 | 15 | 13 | 4 | 50 | 58 | Under 5 | .. | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | . | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 12 | ... | 3 | 22 | 44 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 2 | 2 | .. | ... | ... | ... | .. | . | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 16 | 12 | 24 | 1 | 62 | 125 |

* Trysull Workhouse Infirmary, 3 deaths (included in the Wombourn District).